

## HIGHLY IMPORTANT.

More Heavy Cannonading in the Vicinity of Williamsport and Harper's Ferry.

Supposed Great Battle Yesterday at the Ferry.

Occupation of Frederick by Gen. McClellan.

The Enthusiastic Reception of Our Troops by the People.

Burnside in Pursuit of the Rebels.

One Thousand Prisoners Taken by Our Cavalry.

THE WAY THE REBELS TREAT THEIR SICK

MOVEMENTS OF REBEL CAVALRY.

Interesting Details from Our Special Correspondents at Frederick.

STRENGTH OF THE REBEL ARMY.

SPEECH OF HOWELL COBB,

Sept. 14, 1862.

THE REPORTS FROM HARRISBURG.

HARRISBURG, Sept. 14, 1862. Heavy cannonading was heard this morning at Hanover, Greencastle and Chambersburg, proceeding apparently from an action between McClellan's army and the rebels. General Reynolds has assumed command of the army for the defense of Pennsylvania.

Edward McPherson, candidate for reelection to Congress in the Sixteenth Congressional district, is on the staff as volunteer aide-de-camp.

The excitement has increased by the reported cannonading heard at Chambersburg and Greencastle. Military operations are progressing lively.

Regiments are constantly being forwarded. Troops are going in on foot and by rail from all directions.

HARRISBURG, Sept. 14, 1862. Information from rebel sources received at headquarters at eight o'clock this evening, state that the rebel pickets had retired from the State line into Maryland, and that the pickets had been extended southward. No signs of the enemy were visible in the neighborhood of Middleburg and Waynesboro, Pa.

Yesterday a portion of our cavalry appeared within three miles of Hagerstown without any signs of the enemy. On Saturday three scouts were reported to be three miles south of Greencastle.

Heavy cannonading was distinctly heard at Greencastle this morning, in the direction of Harper's Ferry, up to one o'clock, when it ceased. As to the result nothing has been received.

HARRISBURG, Sept. 14, 1862. There was a battle to-day in Middletown. Longstreet's division, moving on the Hagerstown road, in the direction of Williamsport, with the intention, no doubt, of recrossing the Potomac at that point, was engaged by the Unionists. Nothing official has been received at headquarters of the battle up to this hour (midnight).

THE REPORTS FROM FREDERICK.

FREDERICK, Md., Sept. 12-11 P. M. At three o'clock this afternoon our correspondent accompanied General Pleasanton's division of cavalry from Urbana, eight miles distant, on a reconnaissance towards this city.

OUR CAVALRY CLOSE ON THE REBELS' HEELS. The rebels were reported in force ahead, between Urbana and Frederick, and the deserted camps of the Hampton legion and Stuart's cavalry, which were passed, gave token that a large body of the enemy had occupied the ground we traversed but a short time previously. Indeed, the common report of farmers along the route in answer to questions concerning the fleeing rebels was, "Oh, they have not been gone but a few hours." Swiftly our cavalry rode on, accompanied by a section of flying artillery, without coming up with the rebels, crossing the turnpike bridge over the Monocacy, which, strange to say, had been spared by the rebels, the fate of its neighbor, the railroad bridge. We pushed on with our cavalry, General Pleasanton occasionally sending squadrons in pursuit of fleeing rebels discernible on the heights surrounding.

THE NEW MARKET CROSS OCCUPY FREDERICK. When about two miles from Frederick intelligence reached General Pleasanton of the occupation of Frederick by our troops from the direction of New Market. At five o'clock P. M. immediately orders were given to our columns to bring their pack-trains to the mountain bridge, preparatory to marching into the city. In about twenty minutes after our troops had the city in their hands, the rebels fled in the direction of the old national road the cavalry division of Pleasanton entered by the road leading to Market street.

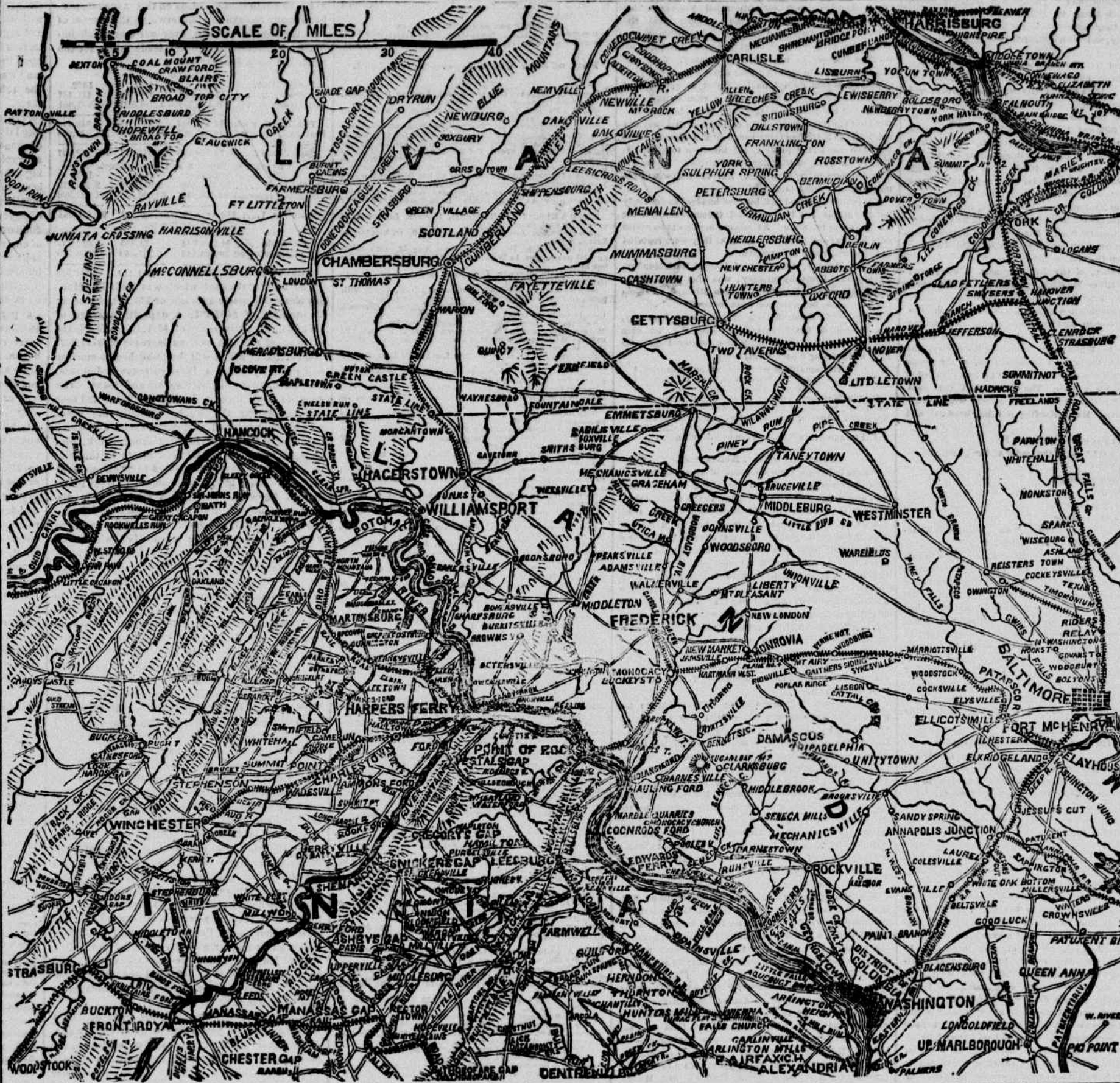
OUR RECEPTION IN FREDERICK. My pen fails when I would attempt to describe the glorious reception we met with from the citizens of Frederick and the cheering masses, with cheeks reddened by the mountain air, especially from the time the horses foot of the first trod the streets of the ancient city of Frederick, Maryland. Our march through the streets was one grand ovation. Old men hobbled into the streets to call us deliverers. The richest and fairest of the beauties of the fair sex soiled their dainty feet with the mud of the street to receive us. The patriotism of the citizens has manifested itself not only in mere formal acts, but in genuine hospitality. A majority of the houses are to-night open ones for the Union soldiers. A mention of names would seem to be needless. The homes of Messrs. Brengle, Schley and Trail, however, to-night present the appearance of a soldier's rest. All honor to the noble Unionists of Frederick who have not allowed a gloomy view of suffering under rebel rule to dampen their love for Union principles and who are fighting to their defense.

THE REBELS BEFORE WE ENTERED FREDERICK. Our troops did not occupy the city without a slight skirmish, of which the following is an account, derived from eye witnesses.

Thinking that the rebels had evacuated the town, a body of cavalry, about one hundred and fifty in number, proceeded up Patrick street. Col. Moore, with six privates, was some distance ahead, unmolested of danger. Suddenly a force of rebel cavalry, two hundred and fifty

## THE HEAVY CANNONADING IN MARYLAND.

Occupation of Frederick by McClellan--The Retreat of the Rebels.



in number, of the Hampton Legion, charged from in front of Dr. Schley's store, with yells and cries of "Kill the Yankee sons of bitches." Col. Moore, riding down Patrick street, discharging their carbines as they advanced, they came up to Col. Moore, when they captured and carried back into town. Proceeding in their charge, they encountered the detachment of the Eighth Illinois cavalry, who charged in turn upon them, putting them to a complete rout with trifling loss. They quickly abandoned the city.

WHEN THE TROOPS ENTERED FREDERICK. Great efforts were made by the rebel generals to induce the young men of Frederick and vicinity to enlist their fortunes with the rebellion, immense inducements being held out. That these efforts have proved barren of effect is seen from the fact that only fifty from Frederick and forty from the entire neighborhood enlisted. There was no enthusiasm manifested by the small rebel population here on the appearance of their brethren to "relieve Maryland from bondage," as they term it. In fact, the reception given to the rebels was chilling even in the houses of their own friends. Their sudden departure before the march of our troops gave pleasure to those who longed for their coming.

THE EXPECTATION OF THE REBEL LEADERS WAS TO receive a large addition to their force in Maryland, besides material aid. In this they have been grievously disappointed and chastened. The advent of the rebel army in Maryland is regarded by officers here in command in their own ranks and their sympathizers here, as a fatal step—the worst move they have yet made—a mistake taken through the sheer desperation of hunger.

About four hundred sick rebels are left in our hands at the hospital here.

General Stuart told a paroled Union officer to tell the Yankee commander that he would retaliate for any unjust treatment of the prisoners left behind.

General Howell Cobb made a speech in the square on Patrick street last night to the citizens. In that speech he said he knew the name of every Union man in Frederick, that he would soon return, and if they had turned over any of his friends to the fury of the Lincoln government he would revenge himself and his government.

General Ewell has suffered amputation from his recent wound in the leg. General Lawton now has Ewell's former command.

A leading rebel officer gave it as his deliberate opinion that the withdrawal of the army of McClellan from the peninsula infused a spark of hope into the breast of the Confederates at a time when they were ready to succumb.

The route of the rebels from this place towards the Pennsylvania line, via Hagerstown, whether Jackson went a few days ago.

FREDERICK, Md., Sept. 15, 1862. I was awakened this morning by the sound of firing at no remote distance. Hastening to learn the cause, I discovered four pieces of artillery in position in a field in the gap of the first chain of the Catoctins, guarding the old national road running west from Frederick, and disputing the passage of our cavalry and flying artillery, which were pursuing the enemy in that direction. Our batteries were quickly brought into position, and for a time the cannonading was quite lively. About twelve o'clock the rebel battery was silenced.

THE CAVALRY UNDER GENERAL PLEASANTON. The detachments of cavalry which were sent out on different routes to capture the retreating rebels are returning this morning, each king bringing in large numbers of the sorry disciples of King Judd, including the sick left behind in the hospital at the barracks. Here I set down the number of prisoners taken at fully one thousand. Our cavalry, under the command of Gen. Pleasanton, is fast gaining a high reputation, and bids fair to become what I am sorry to say, it has not before been, save in a few exceptional cases, a valuable arm of the service.

THE REBELS BEFORE LEAVING FREDERICK. The rebels before leaving Frederick robbed the shops

of all of its medical stores, leaving their sick comrades and our own destitute of medical remedies. This is about the worst piece of vandalism on the part of the rebels that disgraced their short stay in Frederick.

I had this morning an interesting interview with Hon. Lewis J. Hengle, formerly of the Maryland Legislature, who left the town on the approach of the rebels and returned to-day. He says that he went to Pennsylvania. On his return he met and accompanied in this direction a force of rebel cavalry, 500 in number, on a scout. They had visited Liberty and Westminster, the county town of Carroll county, Maryland, destroying in the latter place the enrolment list for the new draft. From conversations with the rebels Mr. H. does not believe that they have yet made their appearance in any considerable force beyond the Pennsylvania line. His opinion is that they will endeavor to get back into Virginia by way of Hagerstown, Md., the ford on the Potomac near Williamsport, and Shepherdstown, Md. A moderate state of water in the Potomac would effectually prevent their passage at those points.

ANXIETY ABOUT HARPER'S FERRY—ALL SAFE. Considerable anxiety has been manifested for the command of General Miles, at Harper's Ferry, by the citizens of Frederick. I do not share in the feeling, as my own sense of defence or retreat are ample to secure his safety.

Gen. Stonewall Jackson attended divine service twice in the German Reformed church on last Sabbath, dressed in his usual service coat of well worn gray, with the jaunty cap. He appeared to pay deep attention to the service.

In their late visit to Frederick the rebels seized every horse they could lay hands upon, remounting the owners in Confederate notes.

OUR TROOPS CONSISTENT OF SUCCESS. The soldiers, after their late severe marches, still keep up their spirits, and long for a decisive engagement with the rebel forces. At first our men were disposed to regard the march into Maryland as a chase of the ignis fatuus; but since the undoubted evidence they see and hear of the presence of the invaders in large force, they burn with desire to meet, whip and destroy them.

FREDERICK, Sept. 15, 1862. Frederick is ours. The first of our forces entered the east end of the town at four o'clock yesterday afternoon. Half an hour later a cavalry force, under command of General Pleasanton, entered the city by way of the Market street turnpike. The main body of the rebel forces evacuated the city on Thursday.

A few cavalry from the command of General Stuart and the Hampton Legion made a charge upon our troops when the latter were still in the town. The rebels were repulsed. Our loss was two killed and six wounded, while the rebels suffered at least to that extent.

The reception of our forces was of a most enthusiastic character. The entire city was overjoyed, and the people turned out en masse to welcome our forces. All along the streets through which our forces passed, flags were waved from house-tops and windows, and the sidewalks were lined with spectators, including a full representation of ladies.

The rebel forces are represented to be about 125,000 strong. The citizens of Frederick have suffered much from the rebel incursion, including the loss of domestic supplies. The enemy were in a starving and ragged condition, many of them being without shoes. They confidently expected that at least 50,000 men would flock to them in Frederick county.

Jackson was here, together with Longstreet and Hill. They left Frederick with the intention, as reported, of going to Pennsylvania; but subsequent events seem to indicate they will endeavor to retreat into Virginia by way of Williamsport.

This morning an engagement is going on at the foot of the mountains, on the road to Sandy Hook, with the rebels, consisting of two thousand cavalry and three batteries of artillery.

A portion of the enemy went to Hagerstown, while Jackson took the left hand road towards Harper's Ferry. The rebels left 400 of their sick in Frederick.

About forty prisoners were taken last night and this morning between this city and the mountains.

FREDERICK, Sept. 13—P. M. On our way hither this morning from Urbana, after crossing the Monocacy, General McClellan and staff passed through General Sumner's corps, who opened their ranks for that purpose. The enthusiasm with which he was received by that veteran corps is beyond description.

THE REBELS SACK THE NEWS-ATMOSPHERE OFFICE. Before the rebels left Frederick they sacked and destroyed the Union (Frederick) newspaper office. The ladies here were forced to hide the American flags about their persons to prevent the rebels from carrying them off.

THE REASON WHY THE REBELS LEFT FREDERICK. In the artillery depot yesterday, which lasted till one o'clock, between General Pleasanton and the rear guard of the rebels, we had three horses killed and two wounded. The rebels, fearful of being surrounded by infantry, fell back three miles beyond the mountains to Middletown, from which place they were driven in the afternoon. Our troops held the town during the night.

FREDERICK, Sept. 14—A. M. There is no probability that our troops will remain inactive. There is no fear now of an invasion of Pennsylvania. The troops are in excellent spirits at their reception by the people of the State.

The sick and wounded rebels left here have been paroled.

CAVALRY FIGHT. Yesterday afternoon the Eighth Illinois cavalry, Colonel Farnsworth, charged on two rebel regiments of cavalry and three guns, a short distance above Middletown, on the road to Hagerstown. We had three men wounded and took forty prisoners. This charge is represented as having been a splendid affair.

ANOTHER CAVALRY CHARGE. Later in the afternoon four squadrons of the Second Indiana cavalry charged on a regiment of cavalry, supported by artillery, on the road leading from Middletown to Harper's Ferry. It was a desperate affair. We lost thirty men killed and wounded. The loss of the enemy in killed and wounded yesterday was double that of ours. Our cavalry so pushed the enemy's wagon trains yesterday that they were forced to burn half a mile of wagons to prevent them falling into our hands.

THE LATEST FROM HARPER'S FERRY. FREDERICK, Sept. 14, 1862. A gentleman, who left Harper's Ferry yesterday (Saturday) reports that Longstreet was repulsed there in the forenoon. At this writing, S. A. M. (Sunday), the battle has been renewed in the direction of Harper's Ferry. The firing is rapid and heavy. Our main column will come up with the enemy, it is thought, this (Sunday) afternoon, when a battle, it seems, must take place. The forces engaged by our troops yesterday were those covering the rebel retreat. The men are in fine spirits, and anxious to be led forward to rid the Marylanders, who have treated them so well, of all invaders.

THE REPORTS FROM BALTIMORE. BALTIMORE, Sept. 14, 1862. Two railroad employes, who were taken prisoners by Jackson near Williamsport, have returned. They say he took them with him across the river, and when his division had crossed on Friday allowed them to return. There can, therefore, be no doubt of the fact that Jackson is on the other side of the river.

The report that the rebels had made an attack on the Northern Central Railroad is unfounded. There was cannonading at Harper's Ferry all day yesterday, ceasing at four o'clock in the afternoon. The result has not yet been learned.

General Burnside passed through Frederick early on Saturday morning, and the whole army pushed on after the enemy by every road, even crossing the fields. The people turned out to welcome Burnside with the wildest enthusiasm, men, women and children, and when McClellan came the people blocked up the streets so that it was difficult for him to reach his

headquarters. The scene is described as most grand. The waving of flags and handkerchiefs was universal, and even the women and children screamed words of welcome at the top of their voices.

Our advance guard entered Frederick on Friday evening at five o'clock, and had a skirmish on the streets with Stuart's cavalry. Several were killed and wounded on both sides, and Colonel Moore, of the loyal Virginia cavalry, was captured by the rebels and carried off, but afterwards recovered.

The rebels did not destroy any of the three turnpike bridges over the Monocacy, but left nothing but the pier standing of the splendid iron railroad bridge.

A rebel train of one hundred ammunition and subsistence wagons was captured by General Franklin, and about one hundred and fifty prisoners had been sent in to Frederick.

THE REPORTS FROM PHILADELPHIA. PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 14, 1862. The special correspondent of the Press, who is en route direct from McClellan's army, which he left last night, telegraphs briefly from Baltimore that his news is good. The rumor about the repulse of Burnside is false.

THE REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON. WASHINGTON, Sept. 14—Midnight. That the fight has been progressing in the direction of Harper's Ferry seems beyond question. Both on the Virginia and Maryland sides of the Potomac heavy firing has been heard all day, with but brief interruptions. The reports were audible two miles from the city. The news thus far received through private sources gives promise of beneficial results to the Union cause, and has accordingly elicited the spirits of all loyal men.

Mail communication with Frederick will be resumed to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14, 1862. Officers who left Frederick this morning report that a general order of General Lee was found there, directing that two columns of the rebel army should proceed by way of Middletown, one of them destined for Greencastle, Pa., with all possible expedition, and the other to proceed by way of Williamsport or Shepherdstown, at discretion, to engage the Union forces at Harper's Ferry.

During yesterday afternoon heavy and rapid firing of siege guns in the direction of Harper's Ferry was heard at Frederick, and last night it was feared that the small force under the command of General Miles would be overcome; but during to-day the firing has been renewed, and it is evident that General Miles is still sustaining the conflict. He has a strongly entrenched position on Bolivar Heights, and it is reported has sent a courier to General McClellan stating that he could hold out.

It is stated that the column attacking Harper's Ferry is under the command of General Longstreet, and there is reason to believe that an additional force under Johnston, from the Shenandoah valley, has participated in the assault. Up to a late hour this afternoon the sounds of the conflict were still heard, but no further reliable advices had been received.

The only apprehensions entertained are for the safety of the small force under General Miles, at Harper's Ferry; but if they have been able to hold out until this evening sufficient reinforcements have, no doubt, reached them.

It is reported that despatches were received here to-night requiring hospital accommodations to be sent to Frederick for four thousand wounded men, stating that skirmishing had been going on all day, and that these hospital equipments were ordered in expectation of a general engagement.

From the latest information received, there had been no battle, but it is evident that the rebel rear guard will make the best possible defense to enable the main body of the army to recross the Potomac. They dare not leave Harper's Ferry in our possession upon the flank of their movement, as it would afford an opportunity for General McClellan to throw a large body of his troops in front of the retreating rebel army, and dispute their passage at any of the fords.

No information has been received showing that recent rains have occasioned a rise in the Potomac to such an extent as to prevent the fording of the river at almost any point above Harper's Ferry, where roads come down to the river bank. If the attack upon Harper's Ferry can delay the progress of our troops for a sufficient time, the principal portion of General Lee's forces may be enabled to cross the Potomac at some of the upper fords, and get into Virginia.

As was indicated some time ago in the correspondence, it is now evident that there will be no attempt on the part of the rebel troops to cross the Maryland line. They will be very fortunate if they are able to get into the Shenandoah valley without experiencing a total defeat and the loss of the principal part of their army.

It appears that the representations as to the number of wagons in attendance upon them is incorrect, and the fifteen hundred wagons said to have passed through Frederick have now dwindled down to only one hundred and fifty, capable of carrying stunted rations for the estimated forces of the rebels for a single day.

Harper's Ferry continued firing, apparently in the direction of Harper's Ferry, commenced on the afternoon of the 13th, and lasted during that day and all of this (the 14th).

SAFETY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S STATE CAPITAL. HARRISBURG, Sept. 14, 1862. On receipt of the news of the occupation of Frederick by Burnside and the advance of McClellan, the people became wild with enthusiasm. The telegraph offices were besieged with regard to the result, and great confidence is now felt here as to the safety of the State capital.

Troops are still arriving on foot and by rail and being forwarded.

McCLELLAN'S STAFF. WASHINGTON, Sept. 12, 1862. As there are many questions daily asked in regard to McClellan's staff, and as it is now composed of some of the most distinguished officers of the regular army, I send you a complete list, which may be of interest to the public:

Chief of Staff.....Brig. General Randolph B. Marcy.  
Adjutant General.....Brig. General Seth Williams.  
Inspector General.....Colonel James B. Stockett.  
Chief Quartermaster.....Colonel Rufus K. Sigel.  
Chief Commissary.....Colonel Henry F. Clark.  
Medical Director.....Dr. Jonathan L. Latham.  
Chief of Ordnance.....Lieutenant Horner Porter.  
Aides-de-Camp.....Lieut. Col. Edward S. Hall.  
.....Lieut. Col. Nelson B. Streeter.  
.....Lieut. Col. Albert V. Calhoun.  
Chief Topographical Engineer.....Vacant.  
Chief Engineer.....Vacant.

OUR WESTMINSTER CORRESPONDENCE. WESTMINSTER, Md., Sept. 11, 1862. A Grand Bank Into Westminster—Arrival of a Regiment of Rebel Cavalry—Movements Through the Town—Excitement Among the Citizens—Apprehensions of the Union Men—Evacuation of the Rebel Sympathizers—Playing "Hide and Seek"—Cheers for Jeff Davis—The Throwing for the Night, &c., &c.

This usually quiet town was precipitated into a state of great commotion this evening by the arrival of a regiment of rebel cavalry. They left New Market at nine o'clock this morning, arriving here about seven o'clock this evening. It may be that a few of the prominent rebel sympathizers knew that they were coming; but their entrance into town was altogether unexpected by most of the inhabitants.

Five hundred and fifty men, comprising three Stuart commands, entered the town. This was the Fifth Virginia brigade of rebel cavalry. This was the Fifth Virginia brigade of rebel cavalry. They galloped into town upon a charge of Lee's brigade. There is only one street worthy the name in town. All this street they dashed, almost the gathering darkness. It was difficult at first to tell whether they were Union or rebel cavalry, for little more than the outlines of the men and horses could be perceived as they rode along. The people rushed to their doors and windows, and soon the whole town was wrought up into a state of unusual excitement. Presently cheers from the direction of the railroad depot—cheers for Jeff Davis—were heard, just as they were passing there on their gallop to the other end of the town. Almost simultaneously with the cheers their grotesque and dusky forms were seen passing the two principal hotels or taverns. Scoundrels everywhere were in great glee, cheered from their houses and ran along the streets, while Union people gazed on with mute amazement. The principal portion of the regiment remained in town near the depot, and at different houses, making inquiries, while one company proceeded right along to the outskirts. These men were posted pickets on the roads, principally on the main

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